

## Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

/081 W

-----047940 180531Z /21

R 171612Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9936

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 2257

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, GT

SUBJ: MTN CONSULTATION WITH CACM COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 95905

1. SUMMARY: POTENTIAL VISIT DISCUSSED SEPARATELY WITH GOG VICE-MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND SIECA DIRECTOR FOR COMMERCIAL POLICY. NEITHER WISHED TO CONCUR IN VISIT AT MOMENT, BUT ANSWER EXPECTED BY END OF THIS WEEK. EMBASSY AND ROCAP BELIEVE THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS COULD RESULT IN BETTER APPRECIATION BOTH SIDES. BACK GROUND ON OUR DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES IS PRESENTED BELOW. NO ACTION REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. GUATEMALAN SPOKESMAN ON TRADE MATTERS, VICE MINISTER BARRIOS FLORES CONSIDERS POSSIBLE VISIT BY US MTN EXPERTS SHOULD BE CONDITIONED UPON OUTCOME OF NEXT CENTRAL AMERICAN MINISTERS OF ECONOMY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27 AND 28.

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3. GUATEMALA HAS BEEN SEEKING WAY OF FINDING AGREEMENT IN GENEVA, STATES BARRIOS, AND CURRENTLY A RECENT SIECA SPONSORED MTN SEMINAR STUDY PAPER (DATED MARCH 13--17, 1978) IS CURCULATING CA CAPITALS ON THE PERCEIVED ISSUES (SPANISH LANGUAGE COPIES POUCHED TO ARA/CEN, EB/OT/GCP AND GENEVA/MTN). SIECA IS ALSO PREPARING REPORT ON

PRESENT STATUS OF MTN FOR PRESENTATION TO THE COMING MINISTERS' MEETING. SIECA INFORMS US THAT AGENDA WILL INCLUDE MTN, BUT PRIMARILY FOR BACKGROUND RATHER THAN DEVELOPMENT OF NEGOTIATING POSITION OR OFFERS.

4. WHATEVER THE RESULTS OF THE APRIL MINISTERIAL MEETING, GUATEMALA CONSIDERS THAT SIECA MUST INITIALLY COORDINATE THE CENTRAL AMERICAN MTN POSITION. THE CA COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO HAVE A UNIFIED POSITION, BUT AS YET HAVE NOT DEVELOPED SAME. SHOULD DISAGREEMENTS ARISE ON SPECIFIC POINTS, THE CACM MEMBERS WOULD BE ABLE TO PURSUE THEM LATER BILATERALLY IF NECESSARY.

5. SIECA REPRESENTATIVE STATES THAT CA COUNTRIES UNLIKELY TO COME UP WITH FIRM RESPONSE TO US' INITIATIVE ON MTN. CA STATES RATHER PREFER TO AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS BY MTN PRINCIPALS. APPARENTLY, CA STATES AND SIECA BELIEVE THAT 1) THERE IS LITTLE OF DIRECT GAIN FOR CA IN US OFFER AND 2) CA IS LIKELY TO OBTAIN WHATEVER BENEFIT MTN MAY AGREE TO REGARDLESS OF CA'S FAILURE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION.

6. SIECA SECRETARY GENERAL MAJORGA CURRENTLY OUT OF TOWN. UPON HIS RETURN, WEEK OF APRIL 17, SIECA HAS PROMISED TO RESPOND TO PROPOSED MTN CONSULTATIONS.

BOSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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